

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VOE-00 SCA-01

SCSE-00 FDRE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INSE-00 EUR-12 DPW-01 /097 W

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R 230637Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2516

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: VS, AS, PFOR, SREF

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEBATE ON GOA POLICY ON RECEIVING
SOUTH VIETNAM REFUGEES

REF: CANBERRA 2494

1. FOLLOWING PM'S APRIL 22 STATEMENT ON AUSTRALIAN POLICY
TOWARDS RECEIVING SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, (REFTEL) OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER, MHR ANDREW PEACOCK, OPPOSITION SHADOW MINISTER
FOR LABOR AND IMMIGRATION, MHR MICHAEL MACKELLAR, AND MHR
TONY STALEY, LIB-VIC., DENOUNCED THE PROGRAM AS TOTALLY
INADEQUATE. BOTH SHADOW MINISTERS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S
ACTIONS WERE MARKED BY INHUMANITY AND WOULD BE A SCAR ON
AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY IN ASIAN RELATIONS. THEY CLAIMED THE GOA'S
CRITERIA ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO WOULD BE ALLOWED INTO
AUSTRALIA WERE EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE.

2. OTHER OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN THE PARLIAMENT DISCUSSED PAST
AND PRESENT REPORTS OF COMMUNISTS ATROCITIES IN VIETNAM TO MAKE
THE POINT THAT THE GOA'S POLICIES TOWARDS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. IN CONCLUDING HIS
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PRESENTATION OF SUCH EVIDENCE, MHR STEPHEN LUSHER, CP-NSW,

SAID QTE I WANT TO PUT THESE FACTS BEFORE THE HOUSE AND TO POINT
OUT THE CALIBRE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN CONTROL IN NORTH VIETNAM -
THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FAVORED BY THE WHITLAM LABOR GOVERNMENT
IN AUSTRALIA, A GOVERNMENT THAT WE AS A NATION ARE NOT PERMITTED
TO OFFEND. END QTE

3. THE OPPOSITION SHADOW MINISTERS MADE THEIR STATEMENTS OUTSIDE
OF PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO
THEM THUS FAR.

4. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES WHO WOULD BE LIKELY TO ENTER AUSTRALIA UNDER THE
WHITLAM GOVERNMENT'S CRITERIA NUMBER NO MORE THAN 600.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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